

## **MAJOR EQUESTRIAN EVENTS PROCEDURE**

### **What is a Major Equestrian Event?**

*A major equestrian event is a competition, exhibition, or other display of equestrian skills that involves between 151 and 300 participants and spectators per day.*

### **Is a permit required to conduct a major equestrian event?**

*A permit is required to conduct a major equestrian event pursuant to Zoning Text Amendment 03-21.*

### **How do I obtain a Permit?**

*A permit may be obtained from the Department of Permitting Services, 255 Rockville Pike, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rockville, Maryland. The completed application must include the nature of the event, the number of participants and spectators expected to attend, the number of days the event will occur, and the hours of the event.*

### **Are there any other documents that I need to submit?**

*The application must be submitted with two copies of a site plan for the location of the event, a description of the area to be used for parking, and a traffic control plan reviewed and approved by the Traffic Control and Lighting Engineering Team in the Department of Public Works and transportation.*

*The applicant must also provide proof of an approved Nutrient Management Plan and a lighting control plan. Other relevant documents may also be required depending upon the location and nature of the event. A separate permit is required for each major equestrian event.*

### **Who is responsible for the traffic control plan?**

*The applicant is responsible for preparing the traffic control plan. The County's Traffic Control and Lighting Engineering Team only reviews and approves the plan. Two sets of the traffic control plan and one copy of the site plan must be submitted to the County's Traffic Control and Lighting Engineering Team for review. Detailed traffic control preparation guidelines and standards may be found on the Department of Public Works and Transportation website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DPWT/index.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DPWT/index.asp). Click on Traffic and Safety, then click on Temporary Traffic Control. For more information about the traffic control plan, please contact Thomas Wathen, Engineering Technician II, in the Department of Public Works and Transportation, at 240-777-2190.*

**What is a nutrient management plan?**

*Any equestrian facility that keeps or boards more than 10 horses must meet all nutrient management, water quality and soil conservation standards of the State. A nutrient management plan prepared by a qualified professional and a soil conservation and water quality plan prepared by the Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board must be submitted through a letter of certification by the landowner.*

*Enforcement of the nutrient management, water quality, and soil conservations plans is the responsibility of the State of Maryland. The landowner must obtain all plans within one year after beginning to operate the facility. Any equestrian facility existing before April 5, 2004 must comply with these requirements no later than March 2, 2005.*

**When may an equestrian event be held?**

*An equestrian even may operate only from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.*

**What are the requirements for the lighting plan?**

*Any outdoor arena lighting must direct light downward using full cutoff fixtures, not produce any glare or direct light onto nearby properties, and not be illuminated after 10:00 p.m., except for an equestrian event which must not be illuminated after 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. A lighting plan that establishes compliance with these requirements must be submitted to Planning Board staff for approval before an electrical permit may be issued.*

**How long will it take for the permit to be processed?**

*An inspection of the property will occur before the permit can be issued. Once that has occurred, it should take approximately three days for the permit to be issued.*

**How many Major Equestrian events may take place in a year?**

*No more than 3 major equestrian events may take place in a year. Additionally, each major event must not take place for more than 3 consecutive days.*

**What is the standard lot size required to conduct a major equestrian event?**

*At least 75 acres are required to conduct a major equestrian event and the site must have direct access to a roadway with at least an arterial classification (a road primarily used by through traffic and usually on a continuous route or highway). The equestrian event must not be held on a site that does not have the minimum acreage requirements as specified in the Zoning Text Amendment.*